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18 AUG 1978

23 AUG 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
FROM: Frederick P. Hitz  
Legislative Counsel  
SUBJECT: GAO Reports on Reconnaissance/Intelligence  
Assets of the Department of Defense

DoD  
F.P.  
GAO.

1. (U) Action Requested: None, this is for your information only.

2. (S) Background: We have now received final versions of the GAO report entitled "Reconnaissance/Intelligence Assets of the Department of Defense." The report is in two volumes, one at the secret level and a supplement dealing with compartmented information.

3. (S) This is the same report we saw in draft and were invited to comment on last winter. After much internal discussion of this report in the context of an overall policy concerning relations with GAO, we did not make a formal reply. We informally advised GAO that we were not likely to make a detailed response to their study.

4. (S) Key aspects of this final version are as follows:

a. The secret volume has been distributed to Congress and the Department of Defense through normal channels for classified reports. The supplemental volume is going only to the Select Committees on Intelligence and the Department of Defense.

b. The general conclusion of the report is that national reconnaissance assets now in existence are neither designed or managed to maximize their use by tactical commanders during war. GAO recommends that Congress:

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